

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124656 TOSEC 050018

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 7723

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: NON-PROLIFERATION: TARAPUR

REF: NEW DELHI 7675

1. IN REFERENCE TO YOUR PENDING MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTERR
VAJPAYEE IN PARIS, THE QUESTIONS OF TARAPUR AND NON-
PROLIFERATION WERE NOZSRAISED IN MY MEETING WITH HIM, WHICH
WAS BASICALLY A COURTESY CALL.

2. HOWEVER, HE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY KNOW OF MY SUBSEQUENT
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MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER DESAI AND FOREIGN SECRETARY
MEHTA (REPORTED TO YOU IN SEPARATE CABLES), AND YE IS
LIKELY TO RAISE WITH YOU QUESTIONS AS TO WHAT WE INTEND IN
THE NUCLEAR NEGOTIATION WE HAVE PROPOSED.

3. AS BACKGROUND YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT WHILE THE PRIME
MINISTER IS DEADSET AGAINST NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES, FULLY

COMMITTED TO TRYING TO HELP PREVENT "NUCLEAR MISUSES", AND EAGER TO HAVE HIS GOVERNMENT JOIN IN EXPLORING WITH US HOW OUR POLICY DIFFERENCES IN THE NUCLEAR AREA CAN BE REDUCED, AT THE SAME TIME ANY SUGGESTION OF INDIA SIGNING THE NPT STILL RAISES HACKLES HERE. THE PRIME MINISTER EMPHASIZED TO ME THAT INDIA'S REFUSAL TO SIGN IT IS BASED ON PRINCIPLE AND A SENSE OF NATIONAL INTEGRITY--WHICH IS TO SAY, INDIA WILL NOT SIGN A TREATY THAT ACCORDS HER SECOND CLASS CITIZENSHIP, WHEREIN SHE IS ASKED TO ACCEPT CONSTRAINTS THAT THE BIG POWERS DO NOT THEMSELVES ACCEPT. "FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS" ALSO REMAINS A VERY TOUCHY ISSUE FOR THE SAME REASON AND BECAUSE AN AIM OF INDIA FOR A LONG TIME HAS BEEN TO BECOME AS SELF-RELIANT AS POSSIBLE IN TERMS OF NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT. CONSIDERABLE PRIDE IS TAKEN IN THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP HER OWN NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES, QUITE APART FROM THE TROUBLESOME 1974 PNE.

4. IN MY TALKS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN SECRETARY I HAVE EMPHASIZED OUR COMMON ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE--IN DESAI'S WORDS, "A WORLD IMMUNIZED FROM NUCLEAR MISUSE". I HAVE ALSO SAID THAT WHAT WE SEEK IN THE PROPOSED NEGOTIATIONS IS A COLLABORATIVE EXPLORATION, IN GOOD FAITH, OF BOTH COMMON INTERESTS AND POINTS OF DIFFERENCE, WITH THE AIM (1) OF GAINING A BETTER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF OUR RESPECTIVE APPROACHES; AND, WE WOULD HOPE, (2) OF THUS BUILDING NEW GROUND FOR EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WITH RESPECT TO THE CONTROL OF THE MORE DANGEROUS FORMS OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. I AM CONVINCED THAT THE

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LESS WE SEEM DIDACTIC, THE MORE LIKELY WE ARE TO HAVE THIS INDIAN GOVERNMENT MEET US HALFWAY.

5. FINALLY, NOW THAT THE IMMEDIATE ISSUE OF THIS TARAPUR RESUPPLY IS BEHIND US, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT YOU SHOULD URGE ON VAJPAYEE THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO GETTING ON WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WE HAVE PROPOSED AND WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER HAS APPROVED SO WHOLEHEARTEDLY. SPECIFICALLY THE PM SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO DESIGNATE AN APPROPRIATE OFFICER (PREFERABLY FROM OUR STAND POINT FOREIGN SECRETARY JAGAT MEHTA) TO MEET WITH JOE NYE AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME TO SET UP THE PROPOSED NEGOTIATIONS. I UNDERSTAND MEHTA WILL ATTEND YOUR MEETING WITH VAJPAYEE.

GOHEEN UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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